

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 16 are pending in this application. By this Supplemental Amendment, claim 8 is amended to correct an informality in the preamble. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-7 and 14, with traverse. Further, claim 8 is amended to include subject matter of claim 1. Thus, rejoinder of claims 8-13 and 16 is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of all claims 1-14 and 16 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. In particular, claims 1-7 and 14 are directed to a process for producing plane-parallel platelets, whereas claims 8-13 and 16, with claim 8 including claim 1 by dependency, are directed to an apparatus for producing plane-parallel platelets. Both Groups of claims are provide for coating a rigid carrier with a separating agent and a product layer, stripping the product layer from a partial surface of the rigid carrier, and transporting the partial surface by rotation of the rigid carrier. Thus, the two Groups lack distinctiveness (MPEP §806.05(e)).

Moreover, as evidenced by the June 15, 2004 Office Action, all pending claims from both Groups have already been examined prior to issuance of the Restriction Requirement. Thus, there is no additional burden imposed on the Examiner to examine both Groups of claims.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 which states that “if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the

Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office. Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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